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Envoy Bush says CIA essential to survival

By Lois Moore

George Bush, diplomat and political figure, called upon the many experiences of his career as he fielded questions on politics, economics and international relations at a press conference Thursday evening.

Bush, in Decatur to speak as part of Millikin University's T.W. Samuels Lecture Series, first noted he was looking forward to following in the footsteps of his personal friend Pearl Bailey. She was the first speaker in the series.

Bush, a former congressman from Texas and former chairman of the Republican National Committee, did not admit to being a presidential candidate, but neither did he rule out the possibility.

"I will make an early determination, probably in the first quarter of 1979," he said, adding it would not be predicated on what anyone else does. He indicated some encourage him to run because of his varied career background.

He made no remarks about other possible candidates. "I want my position of a candidate to pull it (the Republican Party) together and you do not do this by tearing someone down," he said.

Bush, once director of the Central Intelligence Agency, thinks the agency is essential for survival and wishes people would get off its back.

With no hesitation, he asserted the CIA is the best foreign intelligence in the world. He acknowledged there have been abuses, but asserted they were cleared up long ago.

Bush sees the outlook as good as to relations between the Republic of China and this country and sees it in the best interest of the United States.

But even as he spoke of China, he also expressed concern about what he perceived to be "the intention of the Soviet Union not to obtain parity but superiority over the United States."

Bush, who also has experience with the United Nations in his list of credits, admits to being a strong critic of the U.N. for being "unable to cope with the problems of peace."